K-252

Middle Plantation Broad Neck 1856

Benjamin F. Beck, Sr. purchased Middle Plantation<sup>1</sup> from John Claypoole in 1846.<sup>2</sup> He is assessed for it in the 1852 tax records. Local tradition states that the house was built for Benjamin F. Beck, Jr., by his father upon his marriage. Like the father's house there is a date brick with initials and the date 1856. B. F. Beck is listed on both the 1860 Martinet Map and in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, Stevenson Atlas.

While only three bays long, it is similar to the Davis or Kennard House (five bays) in form. It does, however, have several unusual features. The house is two rooms deep and covered with a low pitched hip roof with chimneys on the side walls and has a windowless monitor on the roof (like Cahall's Store, Chestertown). Normally the modillion cornice would be deeper on a Greek Revival house, but the late 1850's was a transitional period into the Italianate style and the cornice here is representative of that change.

Inside, the house has the plan of a central passage flanked by (originally) double parlors on the east, and a dining room with secondary passage (behind the pantry and stair) to the kitchen on the west. The kitchen is located in a back brick wing. The use of the rooms was totally changed after 1956 when the last owner purchased the property. Since then the property has been well maintained.

1. Middle Plantation was patented to Joseph Wickes in 1678 (350 acres) Patents, Lib. 20, fol. 23.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No. 1502525504

1. Nam	e (indicate pro	eferred name)		
historic Middl	e Plantation; also	Crow's Chance, Crow	w's Addition, Trapp	oe Farm
and/or common	Middle Plantation			
2. Loca				
street & number	South side Langfor 3 miles west of Ri	rd-Ricaud's Branch l t. 446 (Langford Rd	Rd. (St. Paul's Rd. ., West of Chestert	on the second se
city, town	Chestertown,	vicinity of	congressional district	1st
state	Maryland 21620	county	Kent	
3. Clas	sification			
Category  districtx_ building(s) structure site _ object	Ownership publicx private both Public Acquisition in process being considered _x not applicable	Status x occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted _x no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park x private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	<b>rty</b> (give names a	nd mailing addresse	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name Eben	L. Waterfield			
street & number	R.D. 3, Box 227,		telephone n	o.: 778-2845
	nestertown		and zip code Mary]	land, 21620
		al Description		
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Kent (	County Court House		liber EHP 35
street & number				folio 386
city, town Ches	stertown		state	Maryland 21620
6. Repi	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	zeys
title				
*** Reconna	isance-level survey	, 1968 <b>-</b> 70	federal sta	te county local
depository for su	urvey records Marylar	nd Historical Trust	Annanolis Md	
city, town			state	

7. Desc	ription		Survey No. K-252	_
Condition _x_ excellent good fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered altered	Check one original site moved date of move	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Built in 1856 of brick in a classical revival style, with both Italianate and Greek Revival elements, the two-story, central passage main section is three bays wide and two bays deep with a low hip roof which has a windowless monitor in the square center section. A gable-roofed lower two-story brick rear wing is two bays wide and two bays deep.

8. Sigr	nificance	Survey No. K-252	
	archeology-historic agriculturex architecture	community planning landscape architecture religion conservation law science sculp economics literature sculp education military social	ce ture I/ nitarian er portation
Specific dates	1856	Builder/Architect	
á	licable Criteria:A and/or licable Exception:	A _B _C _D A _B _C _D _E _F _G	

8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

state local

Level of Significance: national

This rural Italianate-Greek Revival brick house is unusual in several respects. Foremost is the generous central hall (32 ft. long from main entry to rear hall door and almost 7 ft. wide) with no stair. Instead, a narrow, unobtrusive stair is located in a rear, secondary hall perpendicular to the central passage and is not visible until one has almost reached it from the central passage. The desired effect for a wide, breezy unimpeded, "pure" central hall indeed was attained. The location of the main stair is similar to that of River House in Chestertown, a Federal-period building.

Secondly, in contrast to most other Kent County Italianate-Greek Revival buildings which are one room deep in the main section (at least on the first story), Middle Plantation's first story is divided roughly into quarters (exclusive of the central passage). To the east of the central hall there are two equal-sized rooms, which probably were parlors, the front for company, the rear for family, which could be made into one large room by throwing open the large (7-ft. wide ) double doors (now removed) between them. To the west of the central hall what was probably a dining room (now the living room) occupies slightly more than half of the west side of the house. The rear west "quarter" was/is a service area--pantry, cellar stairs, rear stair hall, and hall leading from the old dining room to the wing (seeplan sketch). This house is also unusual, among Kent County houses of the period, in being almost square (about 34' x 40').

Other interesting and noteworthy features of Middle Plantation, indicative of the careful forethought by its planner, are, on the exterior, the corbelled brick cornice of the wing, the windowless central monitor of the main section, and the simple but effective detailing of the main section's cornice (the modillion blocks, the deep frieze board below the cornice). On the interior the most interesting trim is that of the main, central hall and the double parlors, where wide, split-face trim runs (for the windows) nearly floor to ceiling and on the pilasters displays an unusual incised (or grooved) rounded Gothic arch design; jambs are splayed, and the heads are deep and composite.

In all, the structure is well-proportioned, with rooms that are spacious and houghtfully arranged for convenient day-to-day use.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Ge	ograp	hical Data		
Acreage of nomi	nated prope	rty		
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JTM References	do NOT	complete UTM refer	ences	
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rganization		Commissioners of K		date Juno 5 1081
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treet & number	Church		1	telephone 778-3499
		MILLOY		7/0-3499
ity or town	Chester	•		state Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

## BUILDING FORM AND MATERIAL

- 1. Size: Main Section- (ca. 34' x 40') 2 stories, 3 bays wide, 2 bays deep Wing lower 2 stories, 2 bays wide, 2 bays deep
- 2. Plan type (main section): Central hall (2 rooms deep) with stair in secondary hall perpendicular to central hall. Stair not visible from front entry.
- 3. Roof type: Main Section low hip with square raised (about 24") central portion with nearly flat roof, a windowless monitor which formerly may have had a perimeter balustrade. Wing shallow gable
- 4. Chimneys: Location 2 in each end wall, about 3 feet from corners, of main section. Wing center rear gable end, within wall.

  Materials: brick

Decorative elements: Main Section- 3 have 3 + 2 courses for slightly corbelled cap; wing- tall (repeated modern additions to end smoking), intermediate banding (former caps) with latest cap of stretchers surmounted by 1 + 2 courses for cap.

- 5. Material/Walls
  - Main Section: Brick. Bond: 1-7 common; bricks said to have been made on property; recently repointed; flat splayed stretcher arches above all windows. Brick length: ca. 8"

Wing: Brick. Bond: 1-7 common; sample bricks  $8\frac{1}{4}$  x 2-1/8 x 3-7/8". Some parging of lower rear gable wall to stabilize; former doorway in east end of rear gable wall visible in brick repair work.

6. Material/Roofs

Main Section: roll asphalt with recent sheet metal on central flat section Wing A: asphalt shingles

7. Material/Foundation

Main Section: brick, cellar; windows are 3-light replacement windows, aligned beneath upper-floor windows.

Wing A: Brick, brick floor on ground.

- 8. Age
  - Main Section: 1856; date is incised into brick in center of east end wall, 1st story. Wing: Probably contemporaneous with main section despite the difference in the brick (the main section brick is of better quality; none has spalled or powdered as as is true of the wing's brick in places; none is salmon-colored as is true of some wing bricks; stretcher length is somewhat longer in the wing). This may simply represent relegating poorer quality brick to the secondary, less visible portion of the building. The planned use of the wing seems to have originally been a kitchen on the first floor with servants' quarters above, connected by a now-removed corner stair. The second story of the wing appears unaltered. The same bull-nosed window frames/jambs are used on the exteriors of both sections.
- 9. Style; Vernacular Italianate- Greek Revival

#### BUILDING ELEMENTS AND DETAILS

1. Doors: Main entry- location/ description - Center bay of approach facade. Only frame

## .2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

surround, transom and transom bar are original, all else ruined by termites and replaced. Frame and transom bar are bull-nosed 1-3/8" boards; 3-light sidelights (replacements-recent). Transom - 6 lights (large panes); concrete sill which replaced wooden sill; brick stoop and 3 steps (1960's); no evidence on brick facade wall of earlier porch. There may have been simple, open, small uncovered wooden porch and steps. Reproduction 6-panel (raised and beveled) door with 2 central panels the smaller; panel molding is Greek ogee and bevel. Reproduced doors are custom-made copies of house interior doors, but not exact copies. Secondary Entries: location/description - 1) Rear of central hall, totally replaced (termites). There is a door-width 1-light transom; dentil molding at transom bar; bull-nosed board jambs/frame as at main entry; wood sill; recent brick stoop and steps; same reproduction door as at main entry. 2) Wing A- east side near rear gable end- this is a recently cut door, replacing one in gable end wall of wing.

#### 2. Windows:

Main Section: type-double-hung

lights: 6/6

details: large plain sills; bold bullnose jambs/frames; fairly thin

muntins; flat, splayed stretcher arches.

Windows are symmetrically arranged; approach facade windows are centered on room interiors; side wall windows are set toward building center, interior to chimneys

Shutters: fixed louvered; appear to be original; shell-type shutter dogs

Wing-

type: double-hung

lights- 6/6 on 1st story; 2nd story- 3/3 details: same bull-nosed frames/jambs

Door on west side is converted to window (1st bay back from main section).

shutters: none; no mortises seen in frames.

3. Dormers: None

4. Roof details:

Main Section: plain modillion blocks about 12" o.c. with small beveled molding at top (at joint with soffit); box cornice; small beveled bed molding overlaying deep frieze which is round-nosed at bottom edge with bevel below that. No original crown molding; some quarter-round was added when gutters installed

Wing: corbelled cornice (2courses); plain, flush verge boards at gable end. Gable roof ridge flattened between end-wall chimney and wall.

- 5. Porches: none. Brick steps and stoops throughout. Nowhere do the brick exterior walls indicate a former covered porch.
- 6. Color: Current- red bricks, more orangey in wing. Trim white, shutters dark green.
- 7. Other: Central hall measures 6'-9" x 32'-0"; secondary hall (with stair) measures 5'6"x9'6" long

#### INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

- . Plan type- Central hall, but with stair in secondary rear hall perpendicular to central hall
- 2. Major Stair- in rear hall perpendicular to central passage; narrow (treads are 33-¼" wide) open string with 2 plain, tapered, turned, painted balusters per tread; straight run for 3/4 of flight, then dogleg remainder. No measureable "stair well (2nd run rail treads very close to 1st runrail).Newel-

## .3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

turned (composite) with square base of walnut? chestnut?
Under-stair spandrel- recessed panel of medium-width vertical boards with Greek ogee
and bevel panel molding. Treads and risers now carpeted. Railround and continuous to end of stair landing at 2nd floor. Two
smaller turned intermediates (one at landing at end of first run,
the other at top of second flight of 4 stairs)

Rear stairs- formerly at corner of rear gable wall of wing, next to fireplace- now removed-had been corner stair?

## 3. Major mantles

Living room- Greek Revival style; rectangular opening with painted plaster surround (4-5")

Mantle has plain raised pilasters with plain base (with ogee and bevel) and simple but composite capitals.

#### 4. Major trim

Windows/doors: current living room (dining room when house built) has windows with splayed jambs. Trim is composed od inside bead, shallow ogee, 7/8" fillet, and outside added quarter round. This room has furred out sheet rock walls. Sills protrude only slightly. No apron. Double parlor (original use), now used for dining room (front room) and kitchen (rear room): Single recessed panel beneath windows (removed in several because of termite damage), with ogee and bevel backband; splayed jambs. Window trim, front parlor: Base of jamb pilasters starts at baseboard top with simple ogee and bevel base trim; pilasters are 6" de with panel effect due to shallow 1/4" grooves incised into board. Gothic arch at top of pilaster. Really is split face (the 6" wide pilaster plus, to the inside, recessed  $1-\frac{1}{2}$ " fillet and 5/8" corner bead inside); small quarter-tound for capital; the head is a doublefillet frieze,  $6-\frac{1}{2}$ " in total , with large (about 3") ogee and bevel above, topped by spacer and plain board cap; window heads terminate about 2" from ceiling. Door trim in old parlors: same as windows; originally double doors separated the two rooms (front and back); doors now removed, leaving at 7'0" opening trimmed in same style as doors and windows. Main section 2nd story: unmolded raised 4-panel doors; same trim as in living room; plain baseboards with quarter-round shoe added. Trap door in center of hall ceiling to attic and monitor. Bathroom added at front with hall; from rear hall there is an access door about 4'0" high to the wing's 2nd story (with same trim as elsewhere); it is three steps down to the rear wing. Wing, 2nd story: Door and window trim-inside bead and  $1-\frac{1}{2}$ " fillet; random medium-width pine floors; low ceilings; three tiny rooms, unaltered and now used for storage, appear to have been built for servants' quarters, the main access to them having been the now-removed corner stairs of the wing's rear gable-end wall; secondary access was possible from the stair hall via a low (ca. 4' high) door.

Baseboards: 6" board coved at top and surmounted by ogee and bevel; 1-\frac{1}{4}" shoe; total height is about 8"

Cornices: none originally, but a cyma reversa and cove cornice has been added by current owners in present dining room (old front parlor)

Chair rails: none currently except in hall

. Major doors: 6-panel, panels recessed/raised with Greek ogee and bevel applied panel molding; the three panel pairs each a different size, longest on top, smallest in middle; broad lock rail; white porcelain knobs; some doors have large shell-type porcelain keyhole covers with brass back plates.

6. Floors: Original floor visible only in present dining room (original front parlor), of medium width random pine; narrow to medium random pine elsewhere; wing (den) reused wide random planks over brick original floor.

- .4 DESCRIPTION (continued)
- 7. Walls/ceiling finishes: painted plaster; in some rooms sheetrock has been installed over original plaster.

## OUTBUILDINGS/SITE DESCRIPTION

- 1. Major outbuildings: Modern farm outbuildings. Small building of note: probably once a dairy, now extensively rebuilt and repaired, with wide board-and-batten door from another torn-down outbuilding.
- 2. Site description: With its main section's facade facing the public road to the north, the house is set back about 600-700 feet from that road. A recently planted double allee flanks the approach lane, which rises slightly as it approaches the house. The lane divides near the house, the eastern portion forming a circular drive running past the main entry and rejoining the lane, the other portion passing the house on the west and leading to the farm service yard and numerous outbuildings (all erected by current owner) to the west and south. The area immediately surrounding the house is grassy and generously planted with trees and shrubs, almost entirely by the present owners/occupants. In 1956, when they purchased the property only 3 large trees (now in poor health) stood in the front yard. A pond lies to the southwest behind a long barn and pole shed.
- 3. Views to/from site: Beyond the house's yard cultivated fields can be seen in all directions with trees in the distance. Behind the house (to the south) the fields are quite rolling and drop off rather abruptly to the lower elevation to the more southerly portion of the Broad neck peninsula. In a sense, this house sits on a platform. To the north Arcadia (K-469) can be seen, as can also the houses and trees of Langford crossroads to the east. In the far distance the Eliason house (K-467) is visible. It is said that from the roof's center monitor the Chesapeake Bay can be seen; the total acreage of the original farm probably could be seen by an early owner intending to over -view work being done on the farm.

#### USE OF BUILDING

- 1. Current: private residence
- 2. Historic: residence, but agricultural products storage also in unused rooms.

## HISTORY OF BUILDING/PAST OWNERSHIP (if known)

In 1846 a B.F. (Benjamin?) Beck purchased the property. (It is not clear whether this is the father or son of the same name.) In the 1877 atlas of the Eastern Shore, B.F. Beck, Sr. is shown as the owner of Stephney (K-253) to the south, while the designation for Middle Plantation is simply B. F. Beck Local information holds that the senior Beck had Middle Plantation built for his son in 1856 upon his marriage. This may be consistent with the partial information seen quite clearly on a brick on the east facade between the two 1st story windows. Quite clear to the upper left are the initials J.W. Incised in the center below is the date 1856. What is on the upper right cannot be read. What is likely is that the J.W. may stand for the wife's maiden name (perhaps a Wickes?) while the initials of B.F. Beck may be what is indecipherable on the right.

The name Middle Plantation may have several origins. In the mid-nineteenth century this was apparently the "middle" farm of B.F. Beck, with Stephney to the south and another to the north, perhaps Arcadia (K-469) or property near what is now called Brice's Mill. Or the nomenclature may even date to the seventeenth century, when a sizeable area between the east and west forks of Langford Creek was granted to a Joseph Wickes and bore the name Middle Plantation.

## .5 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Prior to 1956 (when the current owners took possession) the house had been little changed Since then, rescue from termites and rot, addition of indoor plumbing, and changes in the use of some rooms have been carried out. Quite sensitive treatment, however, has resulted in preserving the original feeling of the 1850's house. The first floor kitchen (in the wing) was converted to a den, with the fireplace rebuilt, the corner stairs removed, the rear gable wall's entry closed and a new entry built around the corner on the east wall, and a west facade entry converted to a window. The brick floor at ground level was covered by a new floor of wide, random-width pine from another building. Ceiling joists were exposed, "aged" and What may have been a rear parlor (most likely the perhaps added to from another building. everyday, family parlor) in the southeast quarter of the main section has been converted to a kitchen, open to the current dining room (formerly probably the formal parlor) through the 7 ft. opening remaining after removal of the hinged double door there. The current living room in the northwest section of the main section was probably formerly a dining room, with an adjacent large pantry to the rear ( now a bathroom) and, down a hall to the rear wing, the easily-accessible former kitchen. The present owner reported uncovering brick pavement a few inches below the present ground level to the rear of the wing; he stated it to have been about the width of the wing and perhaps 20 feet in depth. Whether this represents an earlier structure (with access through the door formerly next to the wing's rear gable-end fireplace) or simply a brick terrace is not known.

> K-252 MIDDLE PLANTATION

Middle Plantation house is a two story mid-nineteenth-century brick dwelling which is three bays long and two bays deep with a two bay two story wing to the rear.

The brick is laid in common bond throughout and it sits on a basement which has small windows. Centered on the north facade is the door with transom and sidelights.

Louvered shutters flank the windows which have 6/6 sash throughout. There is a wide overhang to the wood cornice while the wing has a brick cornice which steps slightly beyond the plane of the wall. Also the nearly flat hipped roof is a platform with no railing and on each side of the building are two chimneys.

The overall appearance is very neat and attractive.

The owner requested that I refrain from photographing
the building.

owner would wit allow photographs

Form 10-(5/62)

	. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Kent	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS INVENTORY
TOWN Chestertown VICINITY Langford STREET NO. Langford Rd - V2 mile west to Langford - South sich y road. ORIGINAL OWNER Smythe	2. NAME Middle Plantation
ORIGINAL OWNER Somy the ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER Amos Wasterfield PRESENT USE dwelling	DATE OR PERIOD 1856 STYLE Ande-Bellum ARCHITECT BUILDER
WALL CONSTRUCTION BYICK NO. OF STORIES Q	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

SURVEY -252

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Interior

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

7. PHOTOGRAPH
9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourns

No photos

DATE OF RECORD Oct 23, 1968

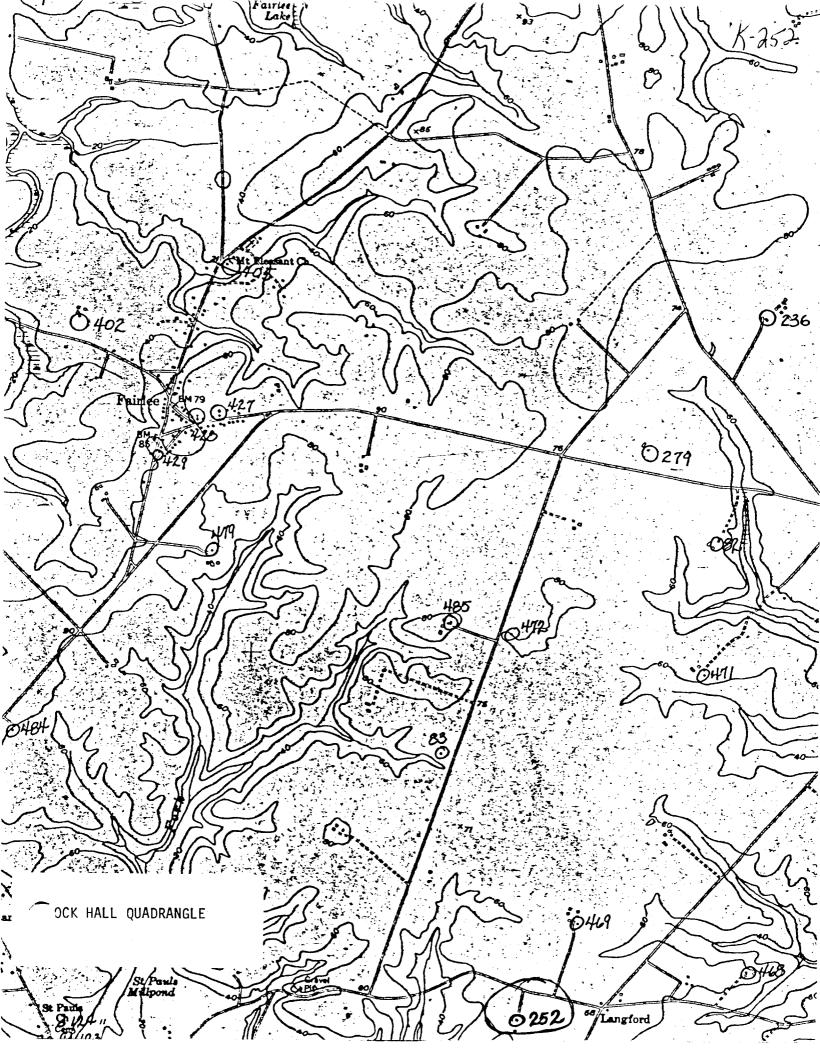
Middle Plantation

1856

Mr. Amos Waterfield

built by Snythe

Middle Plantation house is a 2 story mid 19th
Courtury brish dwelling to white is 3 boays long of
2 boays drep witer a 2 boay 2 story wing to
the rear less brishs laid: - comme board throughoute
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sidelights. Learned shittors flants the winder which have
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become requested to beart at refrain for photographing the
lendanding.





View to South

MIDDLE PLANTATION (K-252)

Broad Neck, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. O. Fallaw, June 1981